

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE PORTLAND PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER  
PORTLAND, MAINE

**The USPS Portland Processing and Distribution Center** in Portland, Maine, processes, codes, and distributes class 1, 2, and 3 letters and parcels. The facility participated in the District's Universal Waste Recycling Program, which included used fluorescent lamps, batteries, mercury products, thermostats, thermometers, and cathode ray tubes. The program was a recent winner of the Governor's award. The facility also is working with EPA's WasteWiSe staff to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

**AT A GLANCE**

Industry Sector:	U.S. Postal Service
Business:	Processes, codes, and distributes class 1, 2, and 3 letters and parcels
Facility Employees:	920
Accomplishments:	Eliminated hazardous waste paint and solvent Eliminated hazardous waste solvent
2003 Commitments:	Recycle more cardboard Reduce greenhouse gas emissions Recycle excess computer equipment Reduce virgin paper stock
Address:	125 Forest Avenue Portland, ME 04101-9997
Web site:	<a href="http://www.usps.gov">www.usps.gov</a>

*Past Accomplishments*

The Portland Processing and Distribution Center has demonstrated its commitment to environmental performance in the area of waste reduction. Between 1992 and 2000, the facility:

- **Eliminated the generation of hazardous waste paint and solvent** by modifying the process for mailbox maintenance, using up existing paint and procuring only non-hazardous paint.
- **Eliminated the generation of spent hazardous parts washing solvent** by modifying cleaning procedures so that sinks were no longer needed.

*Future Commitments*

The Portland Processing and Distribution Center also committed to further reductions in total solid waste. By 2003 the facility will:

- **Recycle** an additional 10% of corrugated cardboard waste by capturing the cardboard from truckers and mailers and recycling it.
- **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions** by increasing the pounds of solid waste recycled per square foot of building space by 50%. This reduces the greenhouse gases generated from the production of new paper stock.
- **Recycle** 75% of excess computer equipment and 100% of cathode ray tubes by sending excess equipment to an approved electronics recycling operation.
- **Reduce virgin paper stock** by increasing recycled content paper by 50%.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The USPS Portland Processing and Distribution Center addresses community concerns through its District Environmental Compliance Coordinator (DECC). The DECC responds to concerns by phone or mail. The USPS also provides the community with brochures on environmental issues, assists with educational programs and workshops given by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and invites community members to the facility for hands-on learning experiences.